

March 23, 2024

To the Senate Education Committee,

I'm Ellen Daehnick, I live in Denver's Senate District 34, and I represent myself. I oppose HB 24-1039, Non-Legal Name Changes, and I urge the committee to vote no on this bill.

HB 24-1039 requires schools to use children's preferred names, and the bill deems a school's refusal to do so as a form of discrimination. This bill circumvents parents to require schools to socially transition children expressing gender confusion. This social transition is the first step in "gender affirming care", the promotion of extreme interventions such as puberty blockers, sex trait modification through cross sex hormones, and irreversible surgeries as a remedy for mental distress. These medications and procedures may represent the biggest medical scandal of our time. Despite no quality or long-term evidence, these radical interventions have been falsely presented not only as safe, but as lifesaving for children.

No child is born in the wrong body, and the belief that they can be is not supported by science. Affirming reality for children isn't discrimination; it's responsible behavior by adults toward the children in their care. Please vote no on HB 24-1039, Non-Legal Name Changes.

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony against HB 24-1039,

Ellen Daehnick
Denver, CO

If you'd like to read more about what many Democrats like me think about gender ideology and policy, information is available from Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender at di-ag.org. I am not representing DIAG with my testimony, but I support the group.

HB-24-1039 Non-Legal NAME CHANGE 3/25/24

THANKS SO MUCH FOR KEEPING LEGAL NAMES THE SAME
THAT ARE ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE!

ALMIGHTY GOD CREATED US IN HIS IMAGE, WITH A DIVINE
PURPOSE & PLAN, MALE & FEMALE ONLY!

THAT'S WHY GOD DESTROYED SODOM & GOMORRAH, & WORKING ON AMERICA!

JESUS CAN FORGIVE YOU OF ALL SINS AGAINST HIS DIVINE IMAGE &
SET YOU FREE TO LIVE A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE!

JOHN 3:3, 7 8:37 I THESS. 4:16-18

DAVID MBBK, MA

USAF VIETNAM VETERAN - VFW CHAPLAIN

FORMER PASTOR

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Senate Education

03/25/2024 01:30 PM

HB24-1039 Non-Legal Name Changes

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Leigh Schmidt For themselves	<p>Dear Senators,</p> <p>My name is Leigh Schmidt, and I'm from Lakewood (SD 22/HD 30). I'm writing to urge you to support HB24-1039: Non-Legal Name Changes. I'd like to tell a story. Two years ago, one of my longtime friends came out as transgender. I was so happy for them because it seemed like they would finally be able to live authentically. Unfortunately, that perception quickly changed. One day, we were sitting outside on a gorgeous autumn day — it was that perfect combination of sunny weather and beautiful changing leaves — and they admitted to me that they were struggling. They said that one of the hardest parts of their transition was getting their name changed in the school system when they couldn't yet change it legally. The process was long, difficult, and uncomfortable. For months, this went on, and the longer the school dragged it out, the worse my friend's mental health got. They dreaded going to class out of fear of being forced to out themselves every time a teacher called them by the wrong name. At the worst times, I was afraid that, when they went home after school, it might be the last time I ever saw them.</p> <p>After a months-long process, my friend finally got their name changed, and it made a world of difference. While this story ends well for my friend, there are so many trans students who face extreme discrimination and even die by suicide because school officials fail to call students by their own names. I support this legislation because I don't want anyone to have to lay awake at night worrying that they won't see their trans friend the next day. This issue isn't just about names. It's a mental health issue, and not only that, it is a matter of life or death. Helping students feel more affirmed and accepted in schools quite literally saves lives, and for that reason, I urge you to vote yes on HB 1039: Non Legal Name Changes.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

	<p>Leigh K. Schmidt (they/she)</p>
<p>Alex Sher For themselves</p>	<p>Hello Senate Education Committee,</p> <p>I'm writing you in support of HB24-1039 for Non Legal Name Changes. Being addressed how you want to be addressed is a sign of respect. We don't think twice when calling someone by a nickname. There's no reason a different name for one's gender expression should be treated any differently.</p> <p>This bill will support that respect in our schools at a time when it is crucial to support our LGBTQ students. Just over a month ago, Nex Benedict, a high school student, died after being badly beaten in a school bathroom. Since then, other murders of trans people, including that of Alex Franco, have happened in our country. In just over a month. Stopping this violence means acknowledging and respecting the lives of LGBTQ people. This bill is an important step to doing just that by ensuring that students can be acknowledged how they would like to be.</p> <p>In my experiences as a non-binary adult in Colorado, it is so much easier to be present and engaged when being acknowledged as you want to be. Just as it's easier for me to participate when I'm being addressed as I wish, passing this bill will support the academic success of LGBTQ Colorado students. Not doing so could leave students more worried about how others view them and the potential for violence rather than their classes. I urge you to support this bill to protect Colorado's LGBTQ population and support students. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Lisa Parmley For themselves</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>We are in support of both HB24-1039, Non-Legal Name Changes, and HB24-1071 and Name Change to Conform with Gender Identity.</p> <p>Our transgender daughter is enrolled in online school because she does not feel safe at in-person school. Everyday, she logs into her school dashboard and the first thing she sees is her old name. It is in the upper, right-hand corner of the dashboard. There is no way for us to make it disappear.</p> <p>We have already had her name changed with the school and they said that the use of her old name cannot be altered in the dashboard until she changes it permanently with the state.</p>

	<p>In addition, most of the emails sent out to her have her old name within them. It can be awkward to try to explain to some of the teachers she corresponds with through email about her preferred name.</p> <p>She has also been an honor roll student every semester in high school so far. When the school sends her the certificate, it always has her old name. So she will not display any of her awards. She works very hard and it is upsetting that those are always sent out with the wrong name and there isn't any way for us to get it changed.</p> <p>The only place it seems like her name change took place is on the webcam area. So her new name is there which is nice, but it would be great for her to have it updated consistently in the dashboard, in the correspondence with teachers, and in awards.</p> <p>We know it would be easier if she would get it officially changed, but right now, she is scared to go down to the courthouse to do this. She is also not sure about her future middle name. Because of those reasons, we are waiting.</p> <p>We were excited to see that Colorado had put forward these pieces of legislation. It is very important for kids like my daughter and I'm sure would help lower some of her gender dysphoria and the depression linked to it.</p> <p>It would be nice for her to see her chosen name in use in her online school before she gets the official change. Even if she goes down to the courthouse to do it before this legislation is passed, it will be nice for future kids to have the ability to get their name fully changed at school.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and time.</p> <p>Lisa & Scott Parmley</p>
<p>Erin Christian For themselves</p>	<p>As a teacher of over a decade, I have seen how important it is for students to have their identities respected at school. Especially for students who don't feel safe being themselves at home, school can be a sanctuary for youth to be true to themselves and find acceptance from trusted adults and peers. When students are forced into hiding everywhere, it has detrimental effects on their wellbeing.</p>
<p>Greg Doyle Questions Only themselves</p>	<p>My name is Greg Doyle. I am a Denver native who lives currently in unincorporated Arapahoe County.</p> <p>I have three questions for the Committee if this bill is made law:</p>

	<p>1. How will its provisions be enforced? 2. Who will be the enforcing body of its provisions? 3. What will be the penalties for violating its provisions?</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Sheila Warfel Against herself</p>	<p>I oppose this bill. Let the children be children. You are only creating more stress and confusion for these children by implementing policies like this in the public school system. You are also putting undo stress on staff to comply with such nonsense. YOU WILL DRIVE TEACHERS AWAY FROM THEIR PROFESSION!</p>
<p>Sammy Asebedo Against herself</p>	<p>I Sammy Asebedo, contest this bill giving legislators or any governing body more power to discriminate against parents rights regarding their child's given/legal name by concealing to the parents of there child's non-legal name.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against herself</p>	<p>TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE 3-25-24 RE: HB24,1039 NON-LEGAL NAME CHANGES FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL FROM: JEANY RUSH CONCERNED CONSTITUENT COLORADO SPRINGS, GRANDPARENT, GREAT GRANDPARENT, MOTHER MY VOTE: NO NO NO NO NO NO</p> <p>i object to your whole bill, concept, and your UBER TASK FORCE Gestapo Marxist garbage which is what this bill is. I already wrote on this bill, but of course, no responses came out. AND YET, HERE IT IS AGAIN! I am remembering my first time holding my children in my arms. These precious souls were entrusted to us by GOD. Not the Schools, Not the LGBTQ+T or whatever other government or private taxpayer groups. They were entrusted to us as they were born. Groups like ALA ASCA APA and many more think they know what is best. You think you know what is best. YOU DO NOT. There is no right given to you either under God, the law, or the constitution. You have violated every human right we the people have. You have violated all parental rights, all moral rights, and worse, you are guilty of horrible crimes against our children. If I sound mad, well guess what, you guessed right. Read books by Dr. Abigail Schrier, Dr. Miriam Grossman. Watch No Way Back, or how about The War on Children by the Starbucks. Complete strangers can strip children from</p>

	<p>their homes, and literally indoctrinate and groom and mutilate our kids. You pass this kind of garbage daily in your now over 600 submitted bills in about 5 weeks. We did not hire you to rape our world.. Lupron the puberty blocker has already had over 10,000 claims against it, and \$874,000,000 paid in settlement. This is the kind of damage you all put in your junk bills. You want to normalize this mess, and I promise you, God wont let you keep doing this. We the People will stand up against this. We are supposed to protect our children from harm. You are the creators of harm. If I sound harsh, I meant to! My heart breaks for the horror show of this legislature! LEAVE THOSE KIDS ALONE!</p>
<p>Anaya Robinson For American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado</p>	<p>Thank you, Madame Chair and committee members. I’m Anaya Robinson, Senior Policy Strategist with the ACLU of Colorado, here today in support of House Bill 1039. I’ll be brief here, as this bill is not complicated. But as a trans adult and as a parent, I can tell you, that it is important.</p> <p>Respecting the dignity and identity of trans youth is paramount to making sure that trans youth become trans adults. This bill does just that. It creates a mechanism in which trans youth get to feel seen, validated, and supported while in school, where youth spend the majority of their time.</p> <p>A 2020 peer-reviewed study by The Trevor Project, published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, found that transgender and nonbinary youth were 2 to 2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBTQ peers. Data also shows that simply using the correct name and pronouns for trans youth significantly reduces this risk.</p> <p>This bill also reaffirms Colorado’s anti-discrimination law. It clarifies the reality that our name is a part of our gender expression, and our gender expression is protected under state statute. This bill does not create a new standard, it simply reaffirms and clarifies the current one. While not passing this bill may make it easier for schools to continue discriminating against the rights of trans students, it won’t make it legal.</p> <p>The bill is simple, in reality. It doesn’t change requirements under the law to not discriminate, it simply illuminates a pathway for schools to follow the legal recognition of student’s gender identity and gender</p>

	<p>expression. It gives a structure to supporting students, and protects schools against discrimination liability.</p> <p>The ACLU of Colorado asks you to vote Yes on HB24-1039.</p>
<p>KIRSTAN SUMMERS Against themselves</p>	<p>My daughter and several friends started doing "research" and spending hours discussing sex and gender identity in middle school. These kids were 12/13 years old. My daughter and friends came out as "pansexual". Then each of the kids (all girls), one by one became "she/they" then "they/them", then "he/they", and then "he/him" over a period of about 8 months. My child began withdrawing, and her mood took a turn for the worse with each announcement. She had already suffered with depression and anxiety following a nasty divorce. She had quite a lot of therapy- never once had she expressed gender incongruence during this time, or at any time during early childhood.</p> <p>I'm lucky that I work in a scientific profession and understood very quickly the actual data (or lack thereof for this particular presentation) on children and adolescents was limited. My daughter was presenting with what has now been termed as "rapid onset gender dysphoria".</p> <p>Because I don't believe in regressive gender stereotypes I let her cut her hair short and dress in a masculine way. She became obsessed with "passing".</p> <p>They friend group began to celebrate each time a new "egg" was cracked (this is when a teen "helps" another teen realize they are trans, and it's kept like a score).</p> <p>My daughter asked teachers to call her by a male name/pronouns. During this time I found a psychologist who is also an expert in gender to work with my kid, and she had a psychiatrist. She has never received a diagnosis of gender dysphoria. Her actual diagnosis is body dysmorphia; the same disordered thinking anorexia and bulimia come from. Social transition is a powerful psychosocial intervention, which interfered with mental health care.</p> <p>The vast majority of ROGD girls have a pre-existing diagnosis of depression, anxiety, and/or autism. There has been a 4,000% increase in adolescent females who identify as males in the past 5 years. Puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have never been studied or approved for use in this manner.</p> <p>To affirm is to agree with a developing adolescent female that her body is wrong. The science on this is not settled. I beg of other</p>

	<p>parents and teachers to consider that the vast majority of parents love their children, and are doing what is in their best interest.</p>
<p>David Kendall Against I Belong Amen Ministries</p>	<p>I was a transgender woman for over 20 years, as well as a member and advocate of/for the lgbTQia TransQueer Movement. Please do NOT encourage anyone to take part of an individual's delusions (mental illness) because it WILL be detrimental to the individuals situation, both mentally and emotionally.</p> <p>As a former trans-identified person, I can attest to the immense damage done by those who affirm, validate, encourage or promote the mental disorder of gender dysphoria. I WAS the suicidal transkid that is always brought up when there is a debate or argument being made to push the TransQueer agenda.</p> <p>But what they don't want you to know is that I became a suicidal trans-adult because affirmation, acceptance, hormones, validation, encouragement or GAC does NOT take away depression, confusion, suicidal ideation or the tremendous self-loathing the individual suffers due to comorbidities and underlying issues.</p> <p>Please, do NOT accept this Bill because it would DAMAGE more children that are already damaged enough. This movement has an agenda, and it is using the thoughts & feelings (emotions) of many good people to push its agenda. Please do NOT allow this movement to use you!</p> <p>If you would not pretend to hear and chat with a schizophrenics imaginary voices then please do not partake of this delusion of gender dysphoria because it is, by definition, an abnormal condition of mental confusion.</p> <p>In HIS Grip, David Arthur Kendall www.ibelongAmen.com</p>
<p>Ethan Anderson For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Ethan Anderson. I'm a senior at Manitou Springs High School, in school district 14. I'm here to speak in support of House Bill 1039 which is crucial to the safety of transgender students in Colorado.</p>

	<p>I am very lucky. I get to tell you “I am a transgender man” and you would not have known if I had not told you. I am also lucky because my name in the school’s system was changed to Ethan as soon as I asked for it. This gives me something all people deserve and something that is too often taken away from transgender students: their ability to choose who to share their private information with.</p> <p>Not only is my “transgender status” not anyone’s business but mine and my doctor’s, it also invites harm against many trans students. According to GLSEN’s 2019 School Climate Survey, 87% of LGBTQ students have heard negative remarks specifically about transgender people. Over half have experienced verbal harassment and over 20% have been physically harassed based on gender and gender expression.</p> <p>Every time a substitute teacher calls out the wrong name during roll call, every time someone’s called to the office, every time something’s displayed on a computer screen for a second before clicking away. These are all moments that expose not just a student’s transness to their peers but also their deadname, something that is almost always very triggering.</p> <p>As a transgender student, I am lucky to feel safe at school. This is in part thanks to me being able to access a non-legal name change. But I don't want to be lucky, I want to be normal. All transgender students have a right to safety, and the non-legal name changes that are a crucial part of that.</p> <p>I urge you to vote yes to House Bill 1039. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Susan Cortez Against themselves</p>	<p>Allowing children to change their names without legal oversight in Colorado raises significant concerns about parental rights and the well-being of minors. Children, particularly at a young age, may lack the maturity and understanding to make such consequential decisions. Parents have a fundamental right to be involved in their children's lives and decisions, especially those that could have long-term implications. By bypassing parental involvement, this policy undermines the essential role of parents in guiding and protecting their children. Moreover, educators already face numerous challenges in fostering academic growth, and introducing non-educational matters like name changes only serves as a distraction from the primary purpose of schooling. It is crucial to prioritize educational</p>

	outcomes and maintain parental involvement in decisions affecting children's lives.
Mike Cortez Against themselves	My children are my wife's and my responsibility, we're the only ones that have any authority to decide what they should or could do. Until my children are able to be responsible enough to have their own place to live and pay their own bills, they will not be able to make life altering choices or decisions. Stay away from indoctrinating innocent children with this diabolical agenda.

Hello Committee Members, I was a transgender woman for over 20 years, as well as a member and advocate of/for the lgbTQia TransQueer Movement. Please do NOT encourage anyone to take part of an individual's delusions (mental illness) because it WILL be detrimental to the individuals situation, both mentally and emotionally.

As a former trans-identified person, I can attest to the immense damage done by those who affirm, validate, encourage or promote the mental disorder of gender dysphoria. I WAS the suicidal transkid that is always brought up when there is a debate or argument being made to push the TransQueer agenda.

But what they don't want you to know is that I became a suicidal trans-adult because affirmation, acceptance, hormones, validation, encouragement or GAC does NOT take away depression, confusion, suicidal ideation or the tremendous self-loathing the individual suffers due to comorbidities and underlying issues.

Please, do NOT accept this Bill because it would DAMAGE more children that are already damaged enough. This movement has an agenda, and it is using the thoughts & feelings (emotions) of many good people to push its agenda. Please do NOT allow this movement to use you!

If you would not pretend to hear and chat with a schizophrenics imaginary voices then please do not partake of this delusion of gender dysphoria because it is, by definition, an abnormal condition of mental confusion.

David Arthur Kendall
www.ibelongAmen.com

Dear Committee:

Well you did it! You progressed a bill that will harm and potentially take the lives of many children despite the testimony of many very credible witnesses including doctors. I waited in the committee room as long as I could to testify but you called on the remote participants instead. For those of you that do not know me, I was the one that left the meeting around 10:00 PM. I was going to testify on behalf of my daughter that is still recovering from the trauma that was inflicted on her by the mental health industry and schools that promote this transgender ideology. She refuses to return to Colorado because of the trauma and violence inflicted to her while living here. On the positive side, she is a beautiful, intelligent, young woman thriving to be an educator to change how our generation has failed our children. Your proposed legislation will continue with the harm inflicted on our youth. You have to do some major mental gymnastics to convince yourself that allowing children with still developing brains to change their names probably without their parents' involvement will save lives.

This legislation is poorly written too. The language is vague with regards to the scope the school is required to support this potential law, and parent notification is not well defined. For these reasons alone, the bill should not have left committee. As it is written now, it will be litigated in our courts to resolve the vague issues of it.

Below is an outline of my testimony that I was going to provide to the committee to reinforce the statistics given by the other witnesses. I composed it at the last moment when I saw this bill included on the agenda for Monday. I was at the capital escorting a few of our future leaders to understand the legislative process in Colorado.

- I am here to express my opposition to HB-1039 based on my 5 year experience providing primary care to my adolescent daughter and experiencing the impact to her and her peers with similar issues; not based on studies but backing up some of the earlier testimony given.
- If SB1039 was enacted already, then I would not have a daughter today because I would not have been aware of the extent of crisis my daughter was experiencing.
- Just over 5 years ago she was in crisis due to a culmination of issues associated with just being a normal teen and an abusive parent. Prior to seeking help for her issues, she never expressed any gender confusion.
- The unjust restrictions implemented by this government during COVID was a catalyst that increased the crisis to a critical phase that required her to be institutionalized multiple times.
- She entered her first facility (Cedar Springs) without any gender identity issues. While in this facility, she encountered several kids that were identifying as something other than their birth sex. She was physically and sexually assaulted by a transgendered boy while there that made the situation worse.
- Subsequent impatient stays, counseling, and her school encouraged her to question her gender identity.
- Eventually she started calling herself by a male first name as her depression and anxiety increased.
- It was at this point I realized that our mental health and school professionals were failing her and her peers in a similar situation.

- If it wasn't for my knowledge of knowing how she was identifying and knowing what was going on in school and to a limited extent in the institutions, I could have lost her 3 years ago when she attempted to take her life at school. The school administration was oblivious to the severity of her situation and condition. Several teachers and counselors supported her choice of identity.
- If I wouldn't have known her condition, I would not prevented her attempt and found her the care she so desperately needed. There is nothing like seeing your precious child bleeding to death in a field by her school to realize that the so-called experts were failing her.
- It was at this point with the proper mental health care and support from my school district that she was able to turn her life around. She stopped taking all medication that was harming her and restored to being the beautiful young woman that she is today.
- Today she is attending an out-of-state university to become an educator. One of her motivations is to change the system to prevent her situation from happening to other children.
- Her situation is not unique. Many of her friends and peers had similar experiences where the outcome was not as good.
- If parents are not aware and involved in their child's mental health crises, the outcomes will not be as positive as my daughter's, and we will lose many more children because the government just cannot provide the same level of attention and care as the parent.
- Promoting use of names other than their given name, should be a discussion that parents are actively involved.
- HB-1039 is a dangerous bill that will do more harm than good. Please kill this in committee.

There are many details to my daughter's story that I could not fit into a 2 minute testimony, but you should get the gist. This gender ideology was forced on her by institutions we should trust to provide the proper care to her. This ideology is doing more harm than good. To this day I still follow several of the kids my daughter encountered through her. The bottom line is that the ones still following the trans ideology still have major mental health issues including suicidal ideations and drug use. The ones whose parents intervened and found care that addressed the root cause of their child's issues are doing much better.

I realized how the vote would most likely go when I decided to leave. It is unfortunate that this issue fell along party lines instead of based on common sense on what is best for the children and parents. I know that to a few of you that this bill is more about ideology and virtue signaling than doing what is right. I expected the others on the committee to objectively judge the testimony and research the issue to make an informed decision. I will continue to provide my story to other Senators before the bill hits the Senate Chamber on Thursday. For those of you that voted against this bill, I thank you for your objectivity and desire to do the right thing.

Cordially Yours,
Mark Milliman

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